

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1       1. (currently amended) A freestanding candle, in an operable position having a wick  
2       supported by a fuel body along a longitudinal wick axis and extending upwardly from a top  
3       surface of the fuel body, the candle comprising:

4           (a) a flame-resistant sheet joined to the bottom surface of the fuel body in proximity  
5           to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least substantially one inch  
6           from the longitudinal axis of the wick; and  
7           (b) an upright wick support attached to the sheet and holding the lower end of the  
8           wick, the attached support forming a liquid fuel flow barrier separating the lower end  
9           of the wick from the fuel body

10       wherein the candle is not contained within a container whereby the sheet prevents the leakage  
11       of melted candle wax through the bottom of the candle onto a candle support surface.

1       2. (cancelled)

1       3. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is sealingly  
2       bonded to the sheet.

1       4. (original) The candle of claim 3, wherein the sheet has an adhesive backing that bonds to  
2       the wick support and the bottom surface of the fuel body.

1       5. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the flow barrier is a sealant disposed  
2       at least across an opening to a bore extending through the wick support.

1       6. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is formed *in situ* unitarily with  
2       the wick.

1    7. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent  
2    disposed on a surface of the lower end of the wick.

1    8. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent  
2    impregnating the lower end of the wick.

1    9. (original) The candle of claim 7 or 8, wherein the wick support is bonded to the sheet by  
2    the flame-resistant agent.

1    10. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is a block of solid, flame-  
2    resistant material.

1    11. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support extends above the sheet an  
2    amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire.

1    12. (original) The candle of claim 11, wherein the amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire  
2    is at least about one-half inch.

1    13. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet extends substantially to an outer  
2    peripheral surface of the fuel body.

1    14. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a peripheral rim having a  
2    thickness greater than the sheet.

1    15. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a flange at an outer boundary.

1    16. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is imbedded within the fuel body.

1       17. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is adhered to the bottom surface of the  
2       fuel body.

1       18. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is corrugated.

1       19. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is dome-shaped.

1       20. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the fuel body has multiple wicks.

1       21. (original) The candle of claim 20, wherein each flame-resistant sheet in proximity to each  
2       wick extends at least one inch from the longitudinal axis of each wick.

1       22. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is crimped.

1       23. (cancelled)

1       24. (currently amended) A fire hazard reducing improvement to a freestanding candle which  
2       is unsupported in a container, the candle having a width of at least two inches and a wick  
3       supported by a fuel body, the wick, in an operable position of the candle, extending along a  
4       longitudinal axis through the fuel body, from near a lower end surface of the fuel body to a  
5       top surface of the fuel body from which the wick extends, wherein the improvement  
6       comprises:

7               a flame-resistant sheet bonded to the lower surface of the fuel body and extending  
8               outwardly from said longitudinal axis at least substantially one inch from the  
9               longitudinal axis of the wick for preventing molten fuel of the fuel body from flowing  
10              through the bottom of the candle.

- 1      25. (withdrawn) A method for more safely burning a freestanding candle fuel body that is not
- 2      supported in a surrounding container, the method comprising:
  - 3              (a) bonding a flame-resistant sheet to the bottom surface of the fuel body in proximity
  - 4              to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least substantially one inch from
  - 5              the longitudinal axis of the wick; and
  - 6              (b) burning the fuel body on a support surface which does not have a container
  - 7              surrounding the fuel body.